



Los Angeles County
Sheriff's Department

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News Release

****UPDATE****

***Split Second Decision* is now available at www.lasd.org**

**SHERIFF BACA RELEASES NEW POLICY ON FOOT PURSUITS AND
LAUNCHES BOOK ABOUT DEPUTY-INVOLVED SHOOTINGS**

Split Second Decision: The Dynamics of the Chase in Today's Society is a new booklet released by Sheriff Lee Baca.

In September 2009, Sheriff Baca convened a task force of 16 highly regarded, seasoned Master Field Training Officers. The task force examined the age-old question facing law enforcement: "If a person, who you believe is armed, runs from you, what should you do? What are your options?" The task force examined specific aspects of foot pursuit tactics and considerations in order to broaden the options that deputies can use. While every situation is unique, in many cases it may be safer to chase to contain, rather than chase to apprehend. Doing so may significantly increase the safety of deputies while also apprehending suspects.

The booklet, *Split Second Decision*, was created by the task force and will be distributed throughout the Sheriff's Department, to law enforcement agencies and the public. It will be used as a training tool to assist deputies in making better overall tactical decisions during high-risk situations. "The booklet and its training concepts are intended to increase officer safety and minimize the risks involved with officer-involved shootings," stated Sheriff Baca.

During the past decade, deputy-involved shootings have ranged from 33 to 57 per year. 2008 there were 37 total deputy-involved shootings, and 2009 had a total of 42.

"When facing a perceived armed suspect, deputies shall be cautiously persistent in performing their duties, yet deputies will continue to put themselves in harms way to save lives," stated Sheriff Baca.

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